

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A stator comprising:

a cylindrical iron core including a plurality of slots provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, a plurality of concave portions provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, and a plurality of notch portions provided in an inner wall surface of some, but not all, of the slots; and

a coil disposed in the slots,

wherein each of the notch portions comprises a linear slit extending partially through the cylindrical iron core in a radial direction so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the notch portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core.

Claims 12-14 (Canceled).

15. (New) The stator of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical iron core is formed a helically wound band plate which includes the linear slits which are abutted and aligned.